



**CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
Fire Prevention Bureau**

Code/Procedural Interpretation

CFD Interpretation: Warming Fires

Date: May 27, 2014

Code Reference: North Carolina Fire Code, Section 307

Subject:

Are outdoor warming fires allowed at construction sites, Christmas tree lots, or similar sites?

Interpretation:

Yes. Although open burning requires authorization and specialized permits from varying agencies, warming fires at construction sites, Christmas tree lots and similar sites during cold weather is allowed provided certain safety guidelines are followed. Those guidelines are:

1. Fire shall be in an approved non-combustible container (i.e. metal drum).
2. Container shall not be located closer than 15 feet from any structure, combustible waste or any other fuel source such as flammable or combustible liquids.
3. At locations accessible to the public, means shall be provided to prevent access to the container by the use of protective barriers, etc.
4. The site shall not be left unattended until the fire is extinguished.
5. There shall be a fire extinguisher with a 4-A minimum rating on site, or other extinguishing equipment, such as a water hose, sand, etc.